

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### 1. A LOCAL VARIETY OF THE NILGIRI LANGOOR

In June 1952, Mr. Angus F. Hutton sent us three skins of the Nilgiri Langoor (*Kasi johnii*), 2 adult and 1 juvenile, obtained at Rousdon Mullai, south-west slope Nilgiri-Wynaad, and drew attention to the fact that they all had greyishwhite buttocks and thighs, which he said gave them the appearance of 'wearing white bathing trunks' in life.

The description in the Fauna of British India—Mammals (Pocock) p. 148 reads:—

'Frequently there is a conspicuous grizzled patch on the loins whence it spreads on to the extreme root of the tail, and on the upper part of the thighs; this patch varies greatly in distinctness, and may be undetectable.'

Mr. Hutton, who appeared to be familiar with ordinary Nilgiri Langoor, wrote that this variety was confined to an isolated valley of the south-west Wynaad Plateau at an elevation of 1,500 ft. He estimated their number at not less than 50.

As it was not possible to match these three skins in the Bombay collection, they were sent to the British Museum. Mr. R. W. Hayman's report on them reads, in part:—

'It would be interesting to ascertain if this variety is restricted to one place, or if individuals turn up throughout a known range of this species.

On comparison with our specimens, I find that although Hutton's two adults have a more clearly defined grey rump than the majority of ours, it is not quite so obvious as in the photographs. And we have an adult skin, unfortunately with no locality, which is fully as grey on the rump as your skin.

Although it may be the case that in one particular area this extra greyness is characteristic, such a character may well be a 'family' feature. For instance, in one locality on the northern slopes of Mt. Kenya the local black and white *Colobus* monkeys have a strong tendency to albinism, and most of their normal black pattern has disappeared. But it is not considered necessary to distinguish them by a scientific name, and I think the same would apply to the skins under discussion, especially in view of the unknown locality of a B. M. skin exactly like yours.'

114 APOLLO STREET,  
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EDITORS